

MINUTES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2011
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH
10 N. SENATE AVENUE – CONFERENCE ROOM 19
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Members present were Paula Presnoples, President; Kevin Tully, Vice President; Dave Collins (via phone); Joe Evans; Kent Tolliver and Randy Maxwell. Also in attendance from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development were Commissioner Mark Everson; Randy Gillespie, Chief Financial Officer; Jeff Gill, General Counsel; Nancy Manley, Director of Budget; Joshua Richardson, Deputy Commissioner of Unemployment; Brenda Summers, Legislative Liaison; Valerie Kroeger, Director of Communications and Joe Frank, Manager of Customer Communications.

Ms. Presnoples welcomed guests Mary Brown and Brad Nemeth with Common Cause and Francesca Jaroz with Indiana Business Journal.

Ms. Presnoples called the meeting to order at 10am and recognized a quorum was present.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Everson began his update with general remarks and stated that the numbers of state unemployment claims have decreased to numbers not seen since 2007.

The new UIM system is scheduled for the next major release in October and there are just a few remaining changes that need to be made before this can occur. There have been series of tests done to make sure the system can maintain acceptable performance during peak usage times.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Presnoples asked the members to review the minutes from the July 20th meeting. Joe Evans motioned for approval and Kent Tolliver seconded the motion. Motion approved.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Richardson began the metrics update by directing the board's attention to the Unemployment Insurance Rate Map for June showing Indiana's June's unemployment rate at 9.2. July's unemployment number will be released on Friday. He then directed everyone's attention to the initial claims slide and stated the numbers mirror what they were in 2007 pre-recession times. He stressed a desire to implement processes that will allow for greater consistency in processing performance as the fluctuation has been somewhat dramatic in recent years. They are still working through the high spike in July filings but the lower authority timeliness slide shows great improvement. US DOL commented on our improvement in lower authority appeals processing and stated we have "just in time appeals handling" and have been very impressed with our work.

Mr. Gillespie began with an update on the agencies funding situation overall. He stated we have experienced an 18% reduction on our WIA funding for the current program year and he has been

traveling the state to visit different regions in order to understand how the funding reductions will impact operations and to better know where operational reduction may be appropriate. In his review of the trust fund, he stated \$59.6 million in benefits were paid out which is \$14m less than last month. Indiana has moved up to #7 in the amount borrowed from the federal government to fund unemployment benefits and is currently at \$1.8 billion.

Mr. Gillespie then reviewed the balance of the Penalty and Interest fund stating there was \$4.4 million currently available for future programs.

It was agreed by all members that a mid year update will be held with grantees Indiana Plan, Ivy Tech and Vincennes University in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Everson came before the board to requested funding assistance for a new initiative that will assist ex-offender in re-entering the workforce. He gave a background stating we are working with the Department of Correction to identify candidates from the pool of roughly 20,000 offenders that exit the state prison system each year to participate in the program. There will be one program coordinator in each of the economic growth regions that will work with employers, corrections officials and regional workforce development leaders to find and place offenders into available jobs. Commissioner Everson stated he has visited with several different employers, including some of Indiana's largest, and they have expressed interest in the program and indicated a willingness to participate.

Ms. Presnoples entertained a motion to approve funding for the Ex-Offender Program in the amount of \$600,000. Joe Evans motioned for approval and Kent Tolliver second the motion, motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one had signed up for public comment.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

The next board meeting will be September 21st, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11am.